nature. According to available information from Planning Commission there is no evidence of adverse effects of liberalisation policies on the employment situation. Statistics on retrenchment show a decline in the number of workers retrenched from 4396 workers in 1991 to 2891 in 1993 and 2040 workers in 1994 (Jan. to Nov.). As on 31-3-95 75756 workers have availed of VRS with NRF assistance in 61 CPSUs. Employment opportunities have meanwhile grown at the rate of 2.03 per cent per annum during the first three years of 8th Plan as compared to 1.89 per cent per annum during the 7th Plan.

Employment exchange figures for the period 1989-94 are given at annexure. (See Appendix 173, Annexure No. 142) The figure show that the rate of increase in the number of persons on the live register of employment exchanges has declined during 1992-94 as compared to the period 1989-91.

Diversion of imported goods meant for Nepal

*651. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of spices imported at Calcutta Port by Nepal through various agencies/individuals/others;

(b) details thereof, variety-wise, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of these spices meant for Nepal have been diverted to the country by unscrupulous traders in collusion with importers; if so, the details thereof;

(d) how many such cases have come to the notice of Government, and in how many cases Government have taken action against the concerned;

(e) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted import of goods meant for Nepal at Kandla and Bombay ports also; if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government are aware that traders in league with importers will flood western India market with imported goods meant for Nepal; if so, what steps are being taken to prevent this;

(g) whether Government will immediately cancel its decision to permit import of goods for Nepal at Kandla and Bombay ports; and

(h) if the answer to part (g) above be in the negative, what steps are being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (h) Data relating to import of spices at Calcutta Port by Nepal is annexed as Statement. (*See* below).

While it has been agreed to in principle to extend trade it transit facilities to Nepal through the Ports at Kandla and Bombay also, modalities in this regard are being worked out.

No caseof diversion ofspices into India out of spices imported through Calcutta Port enroute to Nepal has come to notice. However, some smuggling of spices on Indo-Nepal Border has been reported. Anti-smuggling agencies of the Government are alert to detect and prevent all smuggling including smuggling at Indo-Nepal Border.

Statement

Year	Items	Quantity in M. Tons	Value in Crores
1992-93 . .	Cloves	220.00	Rs. 0.58
	Cinamon	429.00	Rs. 1.10
	Cardamon	105.00	Rs. 0.47
	Mace	NIL	NIL
	Cuminseed	545.00	Rs. 2 07
	Ginger	NIL	NIL
	Pepper	NIL	NIL
1993-94 . .	Cloves	11256.00	Rs. 6.77
	Cinamon	140.00	Rs. 0.71
	Cardamon	294.00	Rs. 1.67
	Mace	37.00	Rs. 0.16
	Cuminseed	114.00	Rs. 0.85
	Ginger	NIL	NIL
	Pepper	470.00	Rs. 1.19
1994-95 . .	Cloves	1594.887	Rs. 52.73
	Cinamon	518.775	Rs. 2.56
	Cardamon	55.075	Rs. 0.65
	Mace	110.382	Rs. 0.42
	Cuminseed	134.618	Rs. 1.01
	Ginger	1429.552	Rs. 3.95
	Pepper	405.373	Rs. 1.93

चाय का आयात

*652. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल**
श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे :

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने वर्ष 1993–94 और 1994–95 के दौरान कुल कम्पनियों को चाय का आयात करने की अनुमति प्रदान की थी ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण थे ; और

(ग) उन भारतीय कम्पनियों का ब्यौरा क्या है, जिन्होंने उपर्युक्त अवधि में चाय का आयात किया था तथा यह आयात किन-किन देशों से किया गया था ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम) : (क) से (ग) चाय के आयात की अनुमति केवल निर्यात अभिमुख एककों, निर्यात संसाधन क्षेत्रों की इकाइयों तथा आयात-निर्यात नीति की शुल्क मुक्त योजना के अन्तर्गत दी जाती है। ऐसे आयातों को पुनः निर्यातों के लिए अनुमति भारतीय चायों के साथ मिश्रण करने के बाद दी जाती है। इस प्रकार के आयातों की अनुमति देते समय सरकार यह सुनिश्चित करने